

2011 Grant Scoring Criteria

These 2011 Grant Scoring Criteria will be used to initially evaluate and rank all applications received. Other funding criteria include: regional distribution of grant awards; and consideration of funding of projects that serve all trail user types.

Question Number and Score:

1-19. General Information Questions = 0

20. The trail project is located on

- a) Combo of privately and publicly owned land = 3
- b) N/A = 0
- c) Privately owned land encumbered with an easement stipulating public access = 3
- d) Privately owned land = 1
- e) Publicly owned land = 6

The combination of possible scores for questions 20 and 21 will more closely balance the total scores for publicly owned land and privately held lands with easements for public use – a change from previous year scoring criteria. Answer speaks to readiness and sustainability.

21. For projects traversing private lands: the property owner

- a) N/A = 0
- b) Has entered into a lease agreement = 2
- c) Has given an easement for trail = 3
- d) Has not been identified and/or contacted = -5
- e) Is negotiating a lease with is = 1
- f) Is negotiating a trail easement with us = 1

The scores for question 21 gives value to easements over leases and values executed leases over easements and leases that are in negotiation. Answer speaks to project readiness.

22. For projects traversing public lands *not* owned by the project sponsor: the public land owner

- a) Has entered into a lease agreement for the trail = 2
- b) Has entered into a MOA/MOU for the trail = 4
- c) Has given an easement for trail = 3
- d) Has given permission in writing = 3
- e) Has not been notified = -5
- f) Is negotiating a trail easement with us = 1
- g) N/A = 0

The scores for question 22 gives value to public private partnerships on public lands where the applicant has a legal agreement defining the joint commitment to a trail project. Answer speaks to readiness and sustainability.

23. If the project is located on public lands or is in a public park, is the land protected in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation?

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| a) Yes | = 2 |
| b) No | = 1 |
| c) N/A | = 0 |

The scores for question 23 values trail projects on public lands that are held in perpetuity over public lands held in a less than permanent manner. Answer speaks to readiness and sustainability.

24. General Information Question = 0

25. Project classification is

- | | |
|--|------|
| a) Acquisition and Construction | = 6 |
| b) Acquisition of easement or fee simple property for trail construction | = 4 |
| c) Combination | = 8 |
| d) Construction of New Trail | = 10 |
| e) Construction of New Trailside facilities | = 6 |
| f) Rehabilitation of trail | = 8 |
| g) Rehabilitation of trail facilities | = 6 |
| h) N/A | = 0 |

The scores for question 25 represent the state's funding priorities for the variety of permitted trail projects. The combination score will be used to value projects that include 2 or more of the above individual types of trail projects.

26. Recreational Trails Program category is

- | | |
|--|------|
| a) Motorized Diverse Use | = 10 |
| b) Motorized Single Use | = 10 |
| c) Non-motorized Diverse Use | = 4 |
| d) Non-motorized Single Use- Equestrian | = 1 |
| e) Non-motorized Single Use- Pedestrian | = 1 |
| f) Non-motorized Single Use- Canoe/Kayak | = 1 |
| g) Non-motorized Single Use- Mountain Bike | = 1 |

Motorized trail projects are valued higher than others because 30% of available funding is guaranteed for motorized trails. RTP is funded by federal taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicle recreation. Non motorized diverse use trail projects are valued second highest.

27. Indicate if the trail is designated as any of the following:

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|----------------------------|------|
| a) Authorized State Trails | = 10 |
| b) National Trails | = 8 |
| c) State Designated Trails | = 6 |
| d) Regional Trails | = 4 |
| e) Regional Trail Plans | = 2 |
| f) N/A | = 0 |

The scores for question 25 represent the state's funding priorities for state, national, state designated trails, regional trails, regionally planned trails and park specific trails. Answer speaks to partnerships and sustainability.

28. - 32. General Information Questions = 0

33. In the space below, provide a brief narrative about the proposal that provides the purpose and need for the project.

Score is dependent on thoroughness of the answer to the following questions Range 1-10

- a) Defines project, purpose and user groups
- b) Makes connections to existing trails/destination areas/schools/communities or fills critical gap
- c) Protects/preserves threatened trail or access

Answer speaks to project readiness; connectivity; sustainability and community support.

34. General Information Question = 0

35. If this project involves any other current, planned or anticipated federal/state/local assistance, indicate the name of the other federal/state assistance projects, the type of assistance, and the current status.

Cumulative for each type of partner:

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| a) Federal | = 3 |
| b) State | = 2 |
| c) Local | = 1 |

Each Federal, State and Local Government partner that is providing assistance (technical or financial assistance) to this trail project will be scored. Local points will also include non-government agencies. If you have 2 Federal agencies, 1 State agency and 1 local government providing assistance to your project – your score for question 35 will total 9. This question addresses partnerships and sustainability.

36. Identify each organization, individual or other key contributors involved in this project. Provide a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution. = 0

Each partner, whether that be an organization, individual or key contributor that is providing technical or financial assistance is tracked in this section. This question addresses partnerships and sustainability

37. Indicate to what degree this project will provide assistance to people with disabilities. List any features that are proposed for ADA compliance.

- a) ADA Plans = 10
- b) No ADA = 0

A score of 10 will be awarded to applicants that prove that their trail project is either designed to accommodate ADA users or that document legitimate reasons for not making their trail project ADA compliant. This question speaks to a project being in compliance with ADA rules and regulations.

38. Describe what is being planned to help make this trail environmentally sustainable for the future.

- a) Sustainable features/designs/plans = 10
- b) None/Blank = 0

A score of 10 will be awarded to applicants that prove that their trail project is designed to be compliant with accepted trail design guidelines and standards. This question speaks to sustainability.

39. General Information Question = 0

40. Are construction plans complete?

- a) Yes = 10
- b) No = 0

A score of 10 will be awarded to applicants that prove that they have construction plans in place for their trail project. Plans in this context are defined as project map, specifications, quantities/materials list, and project schedules. This question speaks to project readiness.

41. Are only concept plans developed?

- a) Yes = 3
- b) Underway = 0
- c) No = 0
- d) N/A = 0

A score will be assigned based upon the applicants ability to prove that they either have an approved conceptual trail plan (approved by the appropriate land manager), or a conceptual trail plan that has NOT been approved by the appropriate land manager. If construction plans are ready applicant answers N/A. This question addresses sustainability and readiness.

42. The public has been allowed to comment on the trail project

- a) During public meetings (*A scheduled meeting in a public place*) = 3

- b) During a 30 day public comment period = 10
- c) Town or City *council meetings* = 5
- d) At Board of Supervisors Meeting = 5
- e) No = -10

A score will be assigned based upon the applicant's ability to prove that the public wants/needs this trail project. This questions addresses community support.

43. General Information Question = 0

44. Do you have local governing body approval?

- a) Yes = 5
- b) No = 0

A score will be assigned based upon the applicant's ability to prove that their project has been approved by the appropriate city or county governing body. This question addresses community support and sustainability.

45. All necessary permits for the project

- a) Have not been identified = -5
- b) Have been identified and applied for = 5
- c) No permits are needed for this project = 5

A score will be assigned based upon the applicant's ability to prove that they have considered what federal, state and local permits will be needed (if any) to allow construction/reconstruction of their trail project. Question speaks to project readiness and sustainability.

46. General Information Question = 0

47. Budget Info:

- a) Filled out thoroughly = 5
- b) Not = 0

A score will be assigned based upon the applicant's ability to thoroughly describe in financial terms how you plan to complete the trail project. This information should include project cost estimates, and sources of matching funding (if any). This question speaks to readiness.

48 – 50. General Information Question = 0

Environmental Review Section:

- a) Filled out thoroughly = 5
- b) Not = 0

A score will be assigned based upon the applicant's ability to thoroughly describe the existing environment in which the trail project is located. This question speaks to readiness and sustainability.

Trail Standards Section:

- | | |
|---|------|
| a) Follows identified/Listed/Academic standards | = 10 |
| b) Does not | = 0 |

A score will be assigned based on the applicant's ability to demonstrate that they have considered and will use generally accepted trail guidelines and standards. This question speaks to sustainability.

From 2011 Forward, Applicants Past Performance with RTP and AAT Grants Will Be Evaluated

2012 Points will be reduced as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a) No previous grants awarded | = 0 |
| b) Completed grant project in compliance with Grant Contract | = 0 |
| c) Completed <i>only</i> portions of the agreed upon project deliverables | = -10 |
| d) Grantee was unable to complete any project deliverables in Grant Contract | = -20 |

Beginning with this 2011 grant cycle, applicant's ability to complete a grant project in compliance with the State Grant Contract will be evaluated and tracked, and your success rate will become part of our 2012 scoring criteria. We are introducing this scoring criterion now so that applicants are forewarned, and to help reduce the recession rate of past grant awards.

Note: Reasonable explanations for grantee's inability to complete a grant will be evaluated by staff of the State Trails Program and the North Carolina Trails Committee.